



George Washington & Jefferson National Forests
James River Ranger District
801A Madison Avenue
Covington, VA 24426
(540) 962-2214

Contact: Lorraine Thomas
Phone: (540) 962-2214

September 26, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JACKSON RIVER ACCESS CONSTRUCTION AND TEMPORARY CLOSURE

Covington, Va. – Four George Washington and Jefferson National Forest access points along the Jackson River between Lake Moomaw and Covington are under construction. Petticoat Junction River Access Point will close from approximately October 8 to 19, 2012 for construction of a new ramp. The existing stairs to the river bank will be removed and replaced with a concrete ramp. The remaining three access points will remain open during construction, but users are cautioned to be aware of workers and equipment on site. In addition, all parking areas are being rehabilitated, and are being expanded in two locations.

This project was made possible by the Falling Springs Ruritan Club, who in partnership with the U. S. Forest Service, has been awarded a grant under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. The Ruritans have also teamed with the Alleghany Highland Chamber of Commerce and Tourism who received a grant from the Alleghany Foundation for this project. Several Ruritan members are donating their time, expertise, and labor to make this project a reality for the benefit of the community.

“These improvements will make river access more convenient for the public, and will help reduce erosion and sedimentation into the Jackson River,” says District Ranger Pat Sheridan. For additional information contact the James River Ranger District at (540) 962-2214.

-USFS-

The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.